

The day was lovely & the ride very pleasant - Fine hills
& mountains with brown, terraced sides, rougher & more
barren in the distance, white, snow-covered peaks beyond.
Green fields about us, olive-trees abundant, occasionally
a pear or peach-tree in blossom, & tender, young leaves
in the tall poplars, that seem to be supports for vines
everywhere - Then villages showing pale yellow every-
where, on hill-side slopes, or down in a valley, or perched
on a nut-peak - Sometimes castles, sometimes enclosures.
Classic ground too, from ancient Roman, down through
the middle ages & Garibaldi's last battles - If one makes
up their mind that the coloring is very little (rather
barren, & browner, & more hazy,) ~~what~~ what one sees at home,
& don't keep searching for the wonderful, purple light
the pictures deceive us with, I admit it beautiful -
But the blue sky is not so much bluer, seems to me, than
with us - Not so blue I should say, though ours may be colder.
And I think the distance too hazy - Coming from the soft
clearness of Egypt, & used to the cold sharpness of our
outline, I want sometimes to brush the mist away -
Unfortunately sun-set came just as we reached Albano
& the young moon had to give light for us the Campagna,
& we could barely see the outline of the great aqueduct,
& only pass at the walls as we backed through, reaching
Rome about 7 1/2 o'clock - We had stopped for passports

25.

Rome, April 18. 69

Dear Luc,

My first date to you from the Eternal
City! Truly I think we began our travels wrong end
first! Italy should have ~~come~~ come before Egypt, for
Egyptian antiquities make old Roman remains
seem modern, & funny too, beside those huge masses
of stone - It is wonderful too, how much less well-
preserved all carving & sculpture is - But no rain,
& dry sand are wonderful preservations - But
this is beginning journal wrong end foremost, & I
must go back to Naples -

I went out on an errand Monday, I had under-
taken bravely to ~~do~~ do alone, but I fell into the hands
of an unworthy driver, soon, as I had taken him by the
hour, thought to make something out of me; carried
me all wrong, & so I was for an hour where I should
have been 10 min. I was determined not to be done,
& as he really did not know or pretended not, I put the
money for an hour in his hand at the end of the hour,
& walked off, in 'me ree the, ree'! However, my
errand failed, I got another flimpee at Naples etc.
where every body rides, from grand carriages & liveries, down

to the shabbiest one horse coaches, or the wonderful Looked,
1 horse chaise, which carries 15! - It is very cheap & ride,
& all sorts of errand people & shabby women ride, & yet
streets & side-walks are full too! - The women of the lower
& middling classes rarely wear anything on their heads, &
you see the beautiful dark hair neatly dressed &
showing various styles - But bonnets are such worthless
saw-a-days it seems never the same! I was dis-
appointed in seeing postmen, I only saw 1000, one in a
horse-maid - I saw a handkerchief worn on the head
by an old woman, & sold as we see the white, - but
a printed cotton handkerchief, tied picture-fashion over the head,
& another or a white pinned over the neck, was all
to make them look different from the plain cotton
lawn & by & by we see every where. I forgot to say in
Naples, they had the same great brass towers on the saddle
of cart-horses, only not so large as Naples, & their carts
saily painted round the sides with scenes from Scrip-
ture, & the Life of Christ!

They got back from Capri for late dinner, having
had a charming tour, seen the blue grotto, & then a
most beautiful sun-set, sailing home.

Tuesday I went out early with Dr. Gray & Katherine
to look at lavas - But the things I had admired so
you were so'd, & I was soon tired & came out. Tom
came back & backed & sat with Charles a little, & then

they all came out to make an excursion to the old Con-
vent of Camaldoli; said to be one of the finest views in
Italy - Charles got up to a drive, as he & I had a little
carriage, & went with them so far as up the hill, where
they took Lombardi - I stupid drive rather, as the road
all the way was between high houses or high walls. Most
of the country roads have a high wall each side. - But
one sees the out-door life, for the ^{working} people do everything
in the street; & no wonder, as their houses are generally
one room in a long block, no windows, but a great double
door, giving all the light & air the poor inhabitants have.
A range of them seems like a range of stables or ware-
houses - Under a handsome villa, will often be a
range of these cottages (?), & so everything we put at the
back of the house. ~~front~~ of sight, is out in the street. - It
must have been washing-day Tuesday, or it is always
washing day; you see the women scrubbing & mangling,
clothes hung & dry on poles & cords & backs of chairs every
where! And sack patches! - Then I came back to
back, & Charles & dine & nap. And really seeming so
much better, though still stiff & lame. - He decided
Wednesday morning to stay a few days longer in Naples,
& feel a little stronger before he took the long & damp
ride to Rome - I felt easy in leaving him, for fever seemed
to have passed away, & his appetite returning. So he had
by a God-blessed took our departure at 1/2 for the States.

& examination of ^{small} baggage where we dined comfortably
at the station, fair table d'hôte, & plenty of time — At
the station in Rome a man-servant met us, pulling
a card from the Schuylers in our hands saying they
had sent their carriage for us, just outside we met
Anna Gray, who had come with her, & our landlord's
son, with two! Wasn't that an arrival! — Lizzie P. &
I were put into Anna Gray's carriage, we sent her
say the Schuylers' with many thanks, & then to
my dismay, Dr. Gray, after seeing Julian & Katherine
into one, came to us, leaving Katherine to go home
with Julian, after the young man had got the
baggage — We arrived, were shown up, up to our rooms,
which looked cheery & pleasant with a nice fire
when we got there, my tea was sent up & eaten, &
still Katherine did not come! — I told Dr. Gray if he
were going to let her take the care, as she so volun-
tingly does, I should have to take his place & take
care of her! But not speaking Italian puts him quite
at a loss, as he is so ready & business-like, she steps
in & does everything — She came at last, said the
delay was that we having had a "permit" to bring
through without examination, the tickets had been
retained & when the baggage had to be identified,
& they kept them all waiting 1/2 an hour before leaving the door.

We are in the boarding house another was in fact fear-
a nice parlor, the first room, a nice large one with
two bureaus & wardrobe, one side, ours the other,
& opening out of mine a room for Charles - It is up
our long flights, not every body in Rome, they say,
lives at the top of the house, if they can, for don't
better air - And our parlour has three windows to
let the sun in, if only the sun would shine!

Such a lovely basket of flowers, we found on the
table from the Schuylers! Red camellias, helio-
trops, violets, & the bundle wreathed with cissarias.
And a kind note from Louisa saying they wished
to give me my first view of Rome - & would come
next day in their carriage to drive me -

So next day at three o'clock I went with them;
partly up the Pincian hill, then down through Plaza
del Popolo where is an obelisk, which, perched up
on a pedestal with a bronze cross on top! but where
the effect of the fine square was pleased by Michel
Angelo - down the Corso, a narrow St. by the column of Anti-
stina, then Trajan's forum & column, the old Forum, the
arch of Septimius Severus, up the Capitol hill, down again
seeing the via Sacra, down through the arch of Titus, round
the Coliseum, by the arch of Constantine, & back again.
Much love to all from your ever aff. son -